

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (new): An isolated DNA fragment of *Oryza sativa OSISAPI*, wherein the DNA fragment includes a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 19 (new): A polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence, comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 of claim 18.

Claim 20 (new): An isolated recombinant plant vector DNA, comprising in the 5' to 3' direction of transcription:

a promoter functional in a plant;
an *OSISAPI* sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1; and
a transcription terminator functional in a plant.

Claim 21 (new): The isolated recombinant plant vector DNA according to claim 20, wherein the DNA is a plasmid.

Claim 22 (new): The isolated recombinant plant vector DNA according to claim 20, wherein the promoter is a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S.

Claim 23 (new): The isolated recombinant plant vector DNA according to claim 20, wherein the transcription terminator is a *nos* terminator.

Claim 24 (new): A method of increasing stress tolerance in a plant, said method comprising transforming said plant with a recombinant vector of claim 20, to yield transformed plants.

Claim 25 (new): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said plant used for transformation is selected from the group consisting of tobacco, rice and tomato plant.

Claim 26 (new): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said method provides transformed plants having increased tolerance to cold stress.

Claim 27 (new): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said method provides transformed plants having increased tolerance to drought stress.

Claim 28 (new): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said method provides transformed plants having increased tolerance to salt stress.

Claim 29 (new): A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 24, wherein said transformed plant exhibits increased tolerance to cold stress.

Claim 30 (new): A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 24, wherein said transformed plant exhibits increased tolerance to drought stress.

Claim 31 (new): A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 24, wherein said transformed plant exhibits increased tolerance to salt stress.

Claim 32 (new): Seeds produced by the transgenic plant of claim 29.

Claim 33 (new): Seeds produced by the transgenic plant of claim 30.

Claim 34 (new): Seeds produced by the transgenic plant of claim 31.